

Claims

1. Transfer stage for moving an object in a vacuum chamber in at least a plane of movement, comprising at least a first and a second rod each having a first and a second end, the first and second rod being connected one to the other with their first ends by means of a first hinge, the second
5 end of the first rod being connected to first drive means for moving said second end, the second end of the second rod being connected to second drive means for moving said second end and the first hinge being connected to attachment means for the object.
- 10 2. Transfer stage according to claim 1, the first and second drive means being adapted for moving the second ends of the first and second rod, respectively, along a common path.
- 15 3. Transfer stage according to claim 1, the first and second drive means being adapted for moving the second ends of the first and second rod, respectively, along a line.
- 20 4. Transfer stage according to claim 2 or 3, the first and second drive means being adapted for moving the two ends of the first and second rod, respectively, along one common line.
- 25 5. Transfer stage according to claim 4, the first and second drive means being adapted for moving the second ends of the first and second rod, respectively, along one common straight line.
6. Transfer stage according to any one of the preceding claims, the second

ends of the first and second rod being provided with a second and third hinge, respectively, which hinges are connected to the drive means.

5 7. Transfer stage according to claim 6, at least one of the second and third hinge being provided with means for the adjustable locking of said hinge.

10 8. Transfer stage according to any one of the preceding claims, the first and second drive means being provided with control means for adjustable synchronously and a-synchronously driving the second ends of the first and second rod.

15 9. Transfer stage according to any one of the preceding claims, the first and second drive means comprising a first and second drive rod, respectively, which each run through a wall of the vacuum chamber by means of at least one passage, the drive rods being moveable in their longitudinal direction and at one end being connected to the second and third hinge, respectively.

20 10. Transfer stage according to one or more of the preceding claims, furthermore comprising a third and fourth rod each having a first and a second end, the third and fourth rod being connected one to the other with their first ends by means of a fourth hinge and the second end of the third rod being connected to the second hinge and the second end of the fourth rod being connected to the third hinge.

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11. Transfer stage according to claim 10, the first, second, third and fourth rod together forming a parallelogram.

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12. Transfer stage according to claim 1, further comprising a third and fourth rod, the first, second, third and fourth rod being connected hinging one to the other in the shape of a parallelogram and the first and second drive means being adapted for adjustable change of the shape or the

position of the parallelogram.

13. Transfer stage according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a fifth rod, substantially parallel to the first rod and a sixth rod substantially parallel to the fourth rod, the fifth rod being connected to the first hinge and the third hinge, and the sixth rod being connected to the third hinge and the fourth hinge.

14. Transfer stage for moving an object in a vacuum chamber in at least a plane of movement, comprising at least four rods, connected with their ends and forming a parallelogram, two opposite first and second vertices of the parallelogram being connected to drive means for moving said vertices along one line and the remaining two opposite third and fourth vertices being provided with means for retaining at least one object.

15. Transfer stage for moving at least one object in a vacuum chamber, comprising

- four elements connected one to the other by means of hinges, the hinges defining a parallelogram and being situated in one plane;
- at least one drive means, adapted for moving two opposite hinges with respect to each other along the connection line between both hinges, and for moving two opposite hinges jointly;
- connection means for connecting an object to a hinge.

16. Transfer stage according to claim 15, a drive means being adapted for both moving two hinges with respect to each other and moving two hinges jointly.

17. Transfer stage according to claim 16, a drive means being adapted for moving two opposite hinges both with respect to each other and jointly.

18. Device comprising one or more of the characterizing measures

described in the description and/or shown in the drawings.

19. Method comprising one or more of the characterizing measures described in the description and/or shown in the drawings.